

Foraminal Stenosis Magnetic Resonance Imaging Classification

A systematic review was performed to identify validated classification systems for foraminal stenosis in the lumbar and cervical spine based on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Methods: A systematic search was conducted according to the PRISMA guidelines. The search included Cochrane, Embase, Medline and PubMed databases going back 30 years and up to September 2021. Three categories of words were used in different variations; foraminal stenosis, MRI and scoring. For inclusion, at least one word from each category had to be present. Articles suggesting classification systems or reporting on their validation were selected for inclusion.

Results: A total of 823 articles were identified and all abstracts were reviewed. Subsequently, a full-text review of 64 articles was performed and finally 14 articles were included. A total of three validated classification systems were found for the cervical and lumbar spine. The remaining 11 articles reported on validation or suggested modifications of the classification systems.

Conclusion: The three classification systems demonstrated moderate to good reliability and have all been shown feasible in the clinical setting. There is however a need for further studies testing the validity of these classifications in relation to both clinical findings and to surgical outcome data ¹⁾.

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Hutchins J, Hebelka H, Lagerstrand K, Brisby H. A systematic review of validated classification systems for cervical and lumbar spinal foraminal stenosis based on magnetic resonance imaging. Eur Spine J. 2022 Mar 28. doi: 10.1007/s00586-022-07147-5. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35347421.

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